United Nations E/CN.18/2011/11

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
8 November 2010

Original: English

United Nations Forum on Forests
Ninth session
New York, 24 January-4 February 2011
Item 10 of the provisional agenda*
Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, including the provision of further guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework 2009 and 2010

Information document

Summary

The present report highlights the joint and collaborative activities undertaken by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests since its last report (E/CN.18/2009/12). It also draws attention to new topics requiring the Partnership's collaborative analysis and action in 2011 and beyond. In this context, the report focuses on actions taken in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests, including the achievement of the four global objectives on forests, the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (forest instrument) and the International Year of Forests, 2011 (Forests 2011).

Since the previous report, the Partnership has continued to develop and expand its existing joint initiatives related to finance for sustainable forest management; forest degradation; forest-related reporting; forest-related terms and definitions; global forest expert panels; a Global Forest Information Service; and online publications.

* E/CN.18/2011/1.

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Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests have also embarked on two new joint initiatives. The first draws on the expertise of its communication focal points to support Forests 2011 celebrations, as well as other outreach and media relations on forests, including Partnership Forest Days held in conjunction with meetings of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The second builds upon ongoing work among Partnership members to advance a common understanding on sustainable forest management. Contributions by Partnership members to other important forest-related events linked to the 2010 High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and the preparatory process for the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) are also noted.

Other key activities of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests include initiatives on monitoring, assessment and reporting; forest landscape restoration; improving forest governance and law enforcement; and research. In addition, several Partnership members delivered rapid technical support to Haiti in response to the devastating earthquake in January 2010. Given the alarming increase of natural disasters and the severe interrelated impacts on forests, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests will in the future consider ways to contribute to the immediate aftermath of natural disasters, through early phase recovery and reconstruction responses. Partnership members will also maximize awareness-raising efforts of the Partnership during Forests 2011, to have lasting impacts in the years that follow.

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	3
II.	Targeted actions in support of United Nations Forum on Forests resolutions and decisions, including the Millennium Development Goals	4
III.	Joint initiatives of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests	7
	A. New initiatives	7
	B. Ongoing initiatives	8
IV.	Other collaborative activities in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests	11
V.	Conclusions and future actions	12

I. Introduction

1. In 2011, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests[1] will complete a decade of its work as part of the international arrangement on forests. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/36, the two main tasks of the Partnership are: to support the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests and to enhance cooperation and coordination among the members.[2] As an informal and voluntary partnership, members have extended support and assistance to countries' efforts to implement the 360-degree concept of sustainable forest management through a comprehensive approach that recognizes the multifunctionality and multiple values of forests.

2. The present framework report highlights developments since 2009, underscoring those which have specifically helped to achieve progress on the four global objectives on forests, the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (forest instrument) and the International Year of Forests, 2011 (Forests 2011). Follow-up actions taken by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in response to the eighth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests resolution on forests in a changing environment, enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination, regional and subregional inputs. Within the period under review, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests lent support to the Forum in several other ways, including through the involvement of several Partnership members in country and organization-led initiatives,[3] substantive contribution and involvement in the work of the facilitative process and at the first meeting of the United Nations Forum on Forests Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Expert Group on Forest Financing, and through the secondment of a senior staff member to the Forum secretariat made possible by the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO).

3. Many developments within and outside the forest sector have influenced the Partnership's multidisciplinary focus on forests and its strategic orientation. This has led it to revamp its strategic focus and prioritization. The strategic work of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests grew after the eighth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests at a Partnership retreat in July 2009, and continued during a follow-up meeting in February 2010. These meetings have become a significant component of the Partnership's planning modalities. As part of its strategic work, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests has been seeking ways to respond with a common voice to address interrelated impacts and challenges on forests, especially those identified in the resolution of the eighth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests. Specific initiatives have also been created to address broader concerns

[1] The Collaborative Partnership on Forests consists of the following 14 organizations working in association to promote the implementation of sustainable forest management: the Centre for International Forestry Research, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Tropical Timber Organization, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Agroforestry Centre, the World Bank and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

[2] Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35.

[3] Further information is contained in the report of the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination (E/CN.18/2011/10).

and challenges within and outside the forest sector in order to exemplify the integrated values and services forests provide to all sectors. Joint initiatives of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests have contributed significantly to various global policy processes. These initiatives will feature prominently at the forthcoming ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, including in the high-level segment and in other processes beyond 2011, such as activities linked to the post-2010 High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and the Rio+20 process.

II. Targeted actions in support of United Nations Forum on Forests resolutions and decisions, including the Millennium Development Goals

4. The need for intensified global action to protect the world's forests from a series of environmental threats, including climate change, loss of biodiversity and desertification was emphasized at the eighth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, in 2009. As a result, at that session, the Forum underscored the urgency to address such threats and sustainable development challenges and their interrelation with forests. Among the Forum's response was a call to strengthen unprecedented levels of coordination and enhanced cooperation to bring sustainable forest management strategies into relevant programmes and processes, such as those on climate change and biodiversity, as well as land and water resources management. In this regard, the governing bodies of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests were invited to continue to integrate the sustainable management of all types of forests into their strategies by supporting the implementation of the forest instrument and the global objectives on forests. South-South cooperation initiatives on sustainable forest management also called for the Partnership's support. To this end, the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests, in collaboration with ITTO, organized a two-day brainstorming workshop aimed at identifying basic elements for a strategy on North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation on sustainable forest management for consideration by the Forum at its ninth session.[3]

5. The need for national forest inventories, covering the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable forest management, also featured notably in the resolution of the eighth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests. A call was made for Partnership members to provide assistance to build national capacity in this regard. The Forum also invited the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to enhance the contribution of forests to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, and to build on existing and well-established forest-related tools, processes, programmes and activities available at the national, regional and international levels to implement sustainable forest management. A number of these tools are already used by several member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, including: national forest programmes; criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management and other related monitoring methodologies and assessment tools; measures for capacity-building; and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies.

6. In the field of monitoring, assessment and reporting, greater collaboration was requested between the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and criteria and

indicator processes to strengthen the use and application of indicators, taking account of the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management. Building on past Forum resolutions, the Partnership was requested to develop a reporting format, with the intention of assisting Member States to report to the Forum on progress towards sustainable forest management and on the measures and provisions identified in the forest instrument. An overview of the types of actions taken by members of the Partnership to help to develop the reporting framework of the United Nations Forum on Forests for future sessions is presented in the report of the Secretary-General on assessment of progress made on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and towards the achievement of the four global objectives on forests (E/CN.18/2011/2). The report also stresses the sensitivities in national reporting to the United Nations Forum on Forests and the need for collaboration to develop new indicators to facilitate such reporting.

7. Under the framework of sustainable forest management, Partnership members were also invited to enhance cooperation on the Forum's cross-cutting issues of forest law enforcement and governance, including combating illicit international trafficking in forest products, through information-sharing functions and technical assistance. The Partnership was also requested to help to synthesize current information on studies and activities related to the recognition of the range of values derived from goods and services provided by all types of forests and trees outside forests, as well as ways to reflect such value in the market place, and to present the findings at the tenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests in the context of its overall theme on forests and economic development.

8. Active support from the Collaborative Partnership on Forests was also identified in the context of the theme of the ninth session of the Forum on Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication. In particular, the Partnership was called, together with Member States, to raise awareness of the linkages between sustainable forest management and the situation of women and youth who depend on and use forests to meet their basic daily needs, including for food, shelter and fuelwood. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests was invited to highlight this urgent issue at the ninth session of the Forum. Linked to this theme, the Partnership was invited to continue to provide science-based information, through modalities such as the global forest expert panels. An update of the scientific assessment carried out on social aspects of forests is presented in section III of the present report.

9. Following an earlier practice in 2008, a Collaborative Partnership on Forests strategic dialogue was organized in Italy, in July 2009, to address the call for joint action of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in the resolution of the eighth session of the Forum. Developments in the work of the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests and other Partnership members, including the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Global Environment Fund (GEF) were discussed at that meeting. The need to gain a better understanding of how forest policy is developing in various arenas, including climate change, was considered an important point to determine where the Collaborative Partnership on Forests might focus its collaboration. Discussions underscored the need to account for the full range of value of forests, including those related to carbon; and that sustainable forest management is much broader than the forest aspects covered in current discussions related to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation

in developing countries (REDD). To increase the understanding and better communicate sustainable forest management, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests submitted a reference document to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which was used by groups, including the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action. The submission was in accordance with paragraph 11 of the Bali Action Plan and was intended to provide practical background information on already agreed specific language at the multilateral level regarding sustainable forest management.[4] Members also recognized the need to develop a more detailed paper to distribute at future forest events. The 2010 Collaborative Partnership on Forests Working Group on advancing a common understanding on sustainable forest management emerged out of these related discussions.

10. Emerging funding mechanisms related to forests and opportunities for synergies were also discussed during the 2009 Collaborative Partnership on Forests strategic dialogue. Considerable attention and resources of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests have targeted climate change-related financing for REDD-plus. While types of financing have been successful in mobilizing funding and catalysing greater attention on forest carbon markets, they might be also distorting funding on the full suite of forest issues. Given the current developments in REDD-plus financing, it has become critical to understand how these new developments affect forest financing for the forestry sector, but also the entire landscape of forest finance.

11. As a result, improving coordination and cooperation on forests at all levels, advancing a mutually supportive agenda for climate change and sustainable forest management, and building a comprehensive approach to financing all aspects and all types of forests have become essential topics of the joint work of the Partnership. Significant work has been undertaken by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Advisory Group on Finance in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests, placing particular emphasis on the critical importance of the funding issue for the effective implementation of the forest instrument. The Advisory Group has carried out significant studies, including analytical mapping assessments on the needs and available sources and mechanisms for funding. A systematic and objective analysis of the funding sources and gaps vis-à-vis the forest instrument has also been presented.

12. Following the special session resolution of the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests on means of implementation for sustainable forest management (see E/2009/118-E/CN.18/SS/2009/2), which outlines a four-year strategy on forest financing, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests were invited to maintain and enhance support to analytical work and knowledge generation, and to develop new tools and approaches to key issues within the forest sector, in particular those relevant to the global objectives. The resolution also invited the Partnership to undertake further activities to support the work of the Forum in helping countries on forest financing, as well as improving dedicated information and advice services on all sources of finance for sustainable forest management. At its 2010 strategic dialogue meeting, the Collaborative Partnership

[4] Letter from members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on agreed language at the multilateral level regarding sustainable forest management.

on Forests took stock of the resolution adopted by the United Nations Forum on Forests at the special session of its ninth session, among other matters.

III. Joint initiatives of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

A. New initiatives

13. Since 2009, the Partnership has undertaken several new initiatives in support of the Forum.

Communication and forest outreach

14. The first meeting of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests communication and forest outreach focal points was convened in October 2010, during the meeting of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Committee on Forestry, with the support of FAO, the Centre for International Forestry Research and the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests. The purpose of the meeting was to assess the Partnership's communication needs and to understand the range of current forest communication initiatives and networks, as well as to examine the communication assets of each Partnership member and explore ways to leverage those assets to build a knowledge-sharing community of forest stakeholders around the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. This evolving community would serve as a platform to maximize the Partnership's impacts on global communication events, including Forest Day 4, in December 2010, and Forests 2011, as well as other events going forward. The meeting reinforced the fact that consensus exists among members to create a Collaborative Partnership on Forests Forest Communicator's Network and to develop a Collaborative Partnership on Forests communication strategy in support of Forests 2011 and related outreach events. Meeting participants identified a number of areas of potential collaboration, including joint media products, films, coordinated events, shared news content, greater linkages of websites, and other outreach activities among Partnership members in 2011, and beyond for the Rio+20 process and for post-2010 activities related to the Millennium Development Goals. Participants listed a number of challenges that they confronted: the difficulty in communicating positive messages in the face of often negative statistics, the cost of generating fresh content for publications, including websites, and the need to avoid duplication of communication efforts. Suggested strategies that emerged from the discussion included using virtual communication tools for discussion, the development of a list of forest facts, a coordinated focus on thematic issues during the course of the Year and support for a World Forests Day, a shared list of forest experts for media, and the shared production and use of films and other visual media.

Advancing a common understanding on sustainable forest management

15. Building on the Collaborative Partnership on Forests 2009 Strategic Framework for Forests and Climate Change, and its 2009 strategic dialogue, Partnership members agreed that there was a need to understand and communicate practical and operational aspects of sustainable forest management, both within the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and externally. In response to misconceptions between the concepts of sustainable use of forest biodiversity and sustainable forest

management, the members recognized the need to better reflect all dimensions of sustainable forest management. In response, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests decided at its 2010 strategic dialogue meeting to establish a working group to exchange views on how to advance a common understanding on sustainable forest management. The Group developed its work based on the sustainable forest management definition adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and contained in the forest instrument (resolution 62/98). It also took note of the resolution adopted by the eighth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, which promotes the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity in all types of forests within the framework of sustainable forest management. The Group convened its first meeting in New York in April 2010, agreeing to the following three objectives:

(a) Clarification of the concepts to achieve a common understanding;

(b) Development of common messages on sustainable forest management and key issues;

(c) Provision of a Collaborative Partnership on Forests response through joint activities on information and guidance for implementation of sustainable forest management in practice.

The second meeting of the Working Group was held in October 2010 to review developments and identify actions to further advance the preliminary analysis of the Group.

B. Ongoing initiatives

Improving access to financing for sustainable forest management

16. Building on earlier work of the Advisory Group on Finance, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests emphasized their continued support to the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests on forest financing. Some members provided targeted input to the note of the secretariat for the first open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing (E/CN.18/2010/2), and participated in the meeting, which was held in Nairobi in September 2010. The results of the meeting identified a number of activities for the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and the Advisory Group on Finance on preparations for the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Expert Group in 2012. Specifically, in their summary, the Co-Chairs requested the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, inter alia, to report to the United Nations Forum on Forests at its tenth session on their ongoing and future actions on forest financing, to hold an open-ended organization-led initiative in support of the work of the Forum prior to the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Expert Group, and to deepen and broaden its work in support of national-level action on financing sustainable forest management. Additional requests made to the Advisory Group on Finance, including efforts to update and expand the 2008 finance paper for the second meeting of the Expert Group, are further described in the report of the Secretary-General on means of implementation for sustainable forest management (E/CN.18/2011/12).

Monitoring, assessment and reporting on forest resources and streamlining national forest reporting

17. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests Task Force on Streamlining Forest-Related Reporting met in October 2010 in Italy, to review its activities since its last meeting, discuss advancements as well as prospects in global processes on forest-related reporting, and identify areas requiring further work. Discussions focused primarily on the need to reactivate the Task Force's work in order to address gaps within existing forest reporting. Members of the Task Force also examined ways to engage potential new members in that work, including criteria and indicator processes. To move the initiative forward, members agreed to update the terms of reference of the Task Force, adding a workplan with a timeline to ensure a targeted follow-up approach.

Joint initiative on forest degradation

18. Work carried out by the joint initiative has focused on examining ways to increase awareness of the many facets of forest degradation and to build country capacity to monitor, assess and report on them. A background document entitled, "Towards defining forest degradation" was prepared in 2009, together with several case studies on methods for measuring forest degradation. In addition, the initiative has worked on identifying specific indicators of forest degradation and degraded forests. Moreover, it has explored the potential development of guidelines to measure specific criteria and indicators of forest degradation to be used at the country level, and which also provide necessary information on forest degradation for reporting to international processes. Given the importance of this issue, members of the initiative aim to develop guidelines for selected indicators for measuring forest degradation in terms of the elements of sustainable forest management. A report is expected at the end of November 2010.

Forest Day

19. The challenges and opportunities imposed by new mechanisms for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation have brought considerable global attention to forests. In response to this growing interest, and building on the success of the first and second annual Forest Day to ensure that forests are high on the agenda, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests organized a third annual Forest Day in Denmark in 2009, and plans are well under way for a fourth Forest Day to be held in Cancún, Mexico, in 2010. As with previous Forest Days, these events have taken place alongside the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The third annual Forest Day helped to heighten global appreciation of forests in mitigating and adapting to climate change. On the third Forest Day, which brought together nearly 1,500 forestry experts, policymakers and activists, key issues around forests and climate change were discussed, specifically addressing the challenges associated with moving REDD-plus from negotiation to implementation. Participants heard keynote statements and convened in subplenary sessions, in addition to parallel learning events, to discuss topics related to forest mitigation, adaptation, financing and degradation. A summary statement was developed and presented to the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change during the closing session of the plenary.

20. Forest Days have opened new channels of communication, allowing for a greater recognition of the numerous contributions from sustainably managed forests. In this context, the fourth annual Forest Day intends to broaden engagement with other sectors, with a focus on designing actions and commitments from all stakeholders. Amid growing optimism that a global deal to include forests in climate change mitigation strategies may be forthcoming, it is expected that the fourth Forest Day will showcase the fact that a reversal in deforestation trends is possible. However, action and commitment from everyone is necessary for this to be achieved. Given the venue of the forthcoming meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the event is expected to bring out a strong Latin American perspective, featuring discussions on community ownership of forests, land rights and tenure, which are central themes of the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests. The fourth Forest Day will also serve as a bridge between the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity and Forests 2011.

Global forest expert panels

21. Scientific assessments on issues of high political concern have continued to address the themes of the Forum. Most of these assessments have been contributions from the global forest expert panels, led by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations. Assessment reports are prepared by thematic expert panels consisting of internationally recognized scientific experts. The first thematic assessment report, launched at the eighth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, addressed the topic "Adaptation of forests and people to climate change". In the resolution adopted at that session, the Forum took note of the assessment report and invited the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to continue to provide science-based information relevant to the themes of future sessions of the Forum. Based on a scoping process and a mandate provided by the Steering Committee of the global forest expert panels, a new scientific assessment was initiated in October 2009 on the subject of the international forest regime. A comprehensive assessment, building on available scientific information concerning international forest governance, is currently being carried out by a panel of 32 scientific experts. Taking into account the breadth and complexity of international governance arrangements, the assessment will provide options on how to address cross-sectoral challenges and promote coordination and policy convergence on key issues, including REDD-plus and access and benefit-sharing. The results of the assessment will be formally presented at the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, with a special emphasis placed on "forests for people".

Global Forest Information Service

22. An upgraded gateway (www.gfis.net) for the Global Forest Information Service was launched in August 2010. The new gateway features advancements in forest information usability and functionality. The Service offers three new information types, namely: "Education resources" (study programmes/curricula and courses); "Projects"; and "Experts". In June 2010, the Service launched www.fornis.net, an online forest information service aimed at enhancing the exchange and dissemination of forest information generated by the forest science community in Africa.

23. Additional ongoing initiatives, such as the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Sourcebook on Funding for Sustainable Forest Management, the Financial Information Engine on Land Degradation (FIELD) of the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification which provides information on sources of financing for sustainable land management and includes sources relating to forests, and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests portal on forest-related reporting are noted. In the coming months, Partnership members will be posting new communication material on the Collaborative Partnership on Forests website, including updated publications on joint initiatives of the Partnership, policy documents, progress reports, statements and meeting reports.

IV. Other collaborative activities in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests

Forest governance and law enforcement, including combating illicit international trafficking in forest products

24. Numerous members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests have been actively engaged in forest governance and law enforcement activities. In September 2010, the World Bank and FAO organized an International Symposium on Forest Governance Indicators in Sweden. The meeting aimed to share experiences from the various ongoing forest law enforcement and governance (and trade) initiatives and to develop practical and workable indicators. In addition, the meeting examined the possibility of tailoring indicators for specific purposes, most especially for monitoring forest governance concerns under REDD-plus and forest law enforcement, governance and trade voluntary partnership agreements. Other issues addressed included collaboration with relevant partners outside the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, further engagement of local institutions and the private sector, and the rights of indigenous and local communities. FAO also highlighted work on the development of voluntary guidelines on forest tenure and the potential for future forest resource assessments to examine the applicability of new indicators.

Forests and natural disasters

25. In response to the devastating earthquake in Haiti in January 2010, several member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests delivered rapid technical support, taking an interdisciplinary approach to land management and bringing together emergency relief and early recovery perspectives. Given the alarming increase of natural disasters in 2010, and the severe interrelated impacts, Partnership members will consider ways to contribute to the immediate aftermath of natural disasters, through early phase recovery and reconstruction responses.

Joint initiatives in forest landscape restoration

26. Since 2009, the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration has conducted various case studies and organized several workshops to assess the contributions of forest landscape restoration. In August 2010, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) convened a scoping mission in Rwanda. Together with several Government representatives of Rwanda, the scoping mission successfully developed a country-wide forest landscape restoration initiative. IUCN, which partnered with the secretariat of the United Nations Forum

on Forests on the mission, developed a tentative outline for action, including benchmarks at specific intervals and with interim outcomes. The Government of Rwanda has recognized the enormous impact of unsustainable land management on its land and its people. Effective measures to counter this approach are already under way and include new policies and regulations directed at local and community government, as well as land tenure for those living on land, taking into account equal opportunity for women and incentives to work together as communities.

V. Conclusions and future actions

27. The members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests have taken concerted steps to build a coherent framework for action on several joint initiatives to support the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests and to engage with partners at all levels. The Partnership's strategic support to the Forum demonstrates its potential in addressing emerging opportunities and challenges of forest finance, forest governance, climate change, forest biodiversity, landscape restoration and forest degradation, as well as its interest in advancing new areas of work on communications and awareness-raising, within and outside the Partnership.

28. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests continues to be an important part of the international arrangement on forests, particularly in promoting and catalysing the implementation of international agreements on forests. Members have continued to strengthen both their joint and individual efforts to improve the management and conservation of forests and forest-based sustainable development, assisting countries in the implementation of forest-related actions agreed in intergovernmental forums.

29. Drawing from past resolutions of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests aim to:

(a) **Enhance collaboration to streamline national reporting among various international processes, by examining potential measures to support country efforts to collect data and build national forest inventories covering the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable forest management, enabling greater coherence and timeliness of information to the United Nations Forum on Forests;**

(b) **Explore approaches to improve collaboration with criteria and indicator processes of sustainable forest management on the application of indicators;**

(c) **Support the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests in developing a format to facilitate Member States in reporting to the Forum at its eleventh session, in 2015, on progress made towards sustainable forest management, the implementation of the forest instrument, and the four global objectives on forests;**

(d) **Participate actively during the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, in particular at the high-level segment, to highlight the actions that members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests are taking which celebrate the "Forests for people" theme of Forests 2011, demonstrating the Partnership's commitment to working together, and with countries and other partners, to achieve sustainable forest management worldwide and to improve the livelihoods of the 1.6 billion forest-dependent people;**

(e) Strengthen collaborative activities on forest governance, tenure, and financing strategies, through the organization of regional capacity-building workshops, joint initiatives, studies and publications, including by increasing the concerted efforts of the Advisory Group on Financing in support of the Ad Hoc Expert Group of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the facilitative process;

(f) Contribute to the work on forest finance as indicated by the Ad Hoc Expert Group at its first meeting, in preparation for its second meeting to be held in 2012, and the work of the facilitative process;

(g) Support the work launched by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests forest communicators to develop a Collaborative Partnership on Forests communication network and strategy in order to advance efforts to increase the visibility of forests and sustainable forest management during Forests 2011 and beyond, including at events related to post-2010 Millennium Development Goals actions and the preparatory process for the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

(h) Support the implementation of Forests 2011 and promote, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as the Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, activities related to the Year of Forests at the local and national levels;

(i) Convene an expert group to exchange information among relevant partners and experts on the range of values derived from goods and services provided by all types of forests and trees outside forests and present results at the tenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests in the context of the overall theme on "Forests and economic development".